



**WEATHER FORECAST**  
AVERAGE 10-DAY FORECAST BY REGION FOR JULY 17-26, 2004  
Region Forecast  
NCR Fair to Cloudy  
Iloilo Fair to Cloudy  
Cebu Fair to Cloudy  
Davao Fair to Cloudy  
Bacolod Fair to Cloudy  
Zamboanga Fair to Cloudy  
General Fair to Cloudy

# Second FRONT PAGE

## ABU SAYYAF RANSOM MONEY? FB asked: Probe exec's US deposit

By Philip C. Salinas

THE DEPARTMENT OF Justice has asked American authorities to look into the US bank account of a Philippine government official who allegedly pocketed part of the ransom payments to the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

Among Justice Secretary Ma. Aurora Leonides, who said she had asked the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to look into the official's financial dealings with the Abu Sayyaf group.

"We need to identify the official and look into the account he used to deposit the ransom money," she said. "We need to know where the money went and if it was used for anything else."

"The FBI will be the primary agency in this case," she said. "We will be working closely with them to ensure that the money is not being used for anything else."

"The DOJ will also be looking into the account," she said. "We will be working closely with them to ensure that the money is not being used for anything else."

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EXTERIOR AND SCENE: A man in a suit is seen from the side, looking down at a document or device on a table. He appears to be in a formal setting, possibly a government office or a courtroom.

## Gov't seeks P1.05-B reimbursement from Mega Pacific for idle poll gear

By Philip C. Salinas

THE GOV'T is seeking billions of pesos in idle automated vote counting machines, the government is now seeking that Mega Pacific reimburse the state for the cost of the machines.

In a 14-page petition, Solicitor General Ramon M. Dela Cruz filed with the Office of the Solicitor General, Manila, a petition for reimbursement of the cost of the machines.

The petition, which was filed on July 15, 2004, seeks reimbursement of the cost of the machines, which were purchased by the state for the 2001 elections.

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## DECS to ban cell phone use to stop gambling

By Dina T. Amabilio

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# Reds bigger threat to RP than Moro extremists—AFP

COMMUNIST insurgents are still the biggest security threat to the Philippines, more so than Muslim extremists tied to foreign networks, the military chief of staff said in remarks released yesterday.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its guerrilla wing, the 8,600-strong New People's Army (NPA) have been waging a 35-year Maoist insurgency.

"The CPP/NPA is still considered the main threat to our peace and security because of its nationwide presence and demonstrated capability to launch armed rebellion and legal struggle in pursuit of its objective of seizing political power," Armed Forces Chief Gen. Narciso Abaya said.

"Legal struggle," commonly refers to the insurgents' use of front organizations to legally agitate against government while keeping clandestine

ties to the rebels.

Abaya, in a speech to reporters late Thursday, cited the communists' "unlawful and immoral act of recruiting minors as armed combatants to beef up their dwindling ranks," as well as its stepped-up campaign of extorting money from businesses in the countryside.

While Muslim rebels are largely limited to southern regions of the country where the Muslim minority is based, the communists are active in scattered areas throughout the archipelago.

Abaya said government forces this year had succeeded in "reducing the CPP/NPA capabilities and influence in priority areas," but had been forced to divert their resources to securing the holding of May 10 general elections.

The communists had resorted to extorting money from candidates and

campaigners in exchange for allowing them to campaign in areas of rebel activity, Abaya recalled.

Peace talks between the communists and the government are continuing despite the absence of a ceasefire between the two sides, Abaya said. "This will not impede our current operations against (the communists') armed elements." The last round of peace talks in Oslo, Norway, in June, foundered over the rebels' demands for compensation for human rights victims. The communists are pressing the government to hold the next round of talks in Beijing.

To cope with the threats, Abaya said the military was upgrading its equipment and logistics procurement and concentrating on acquiring more "move-shoot-and-communicate" hardware that will have more impact on counterinsurgency operations.

Agence France Press

## Most Metro Manilans support house arrest for Erap, poll shows

MORE THAN three years after he was ousted from office, former president Joseph Estrada continues to have the sympathies of Metro Manilans, a survey said.

A survey conducted by HB&A Research International showed that most Metro Manila residents favor special treatment for the deposed leader and support his house arrest.

The Sandiganbayan has allowed Estrada to transfer from his detention cell in Camp Cagasin to his nearby resthouse in Tanay, Rizal.

The survey, conducted a week after the Sandiganbayan ruling, found that a majority of 61 percent of Metro Manila residents agreed that Estrada be placed under house arrest.

Among the respondents who support the house arrest, 80 percent agreed that Estrada has not been proven guilty and should be

given "better treatment than guilty prisoners" while 78 percent argued that the house arrest would do away with the expenses of detaining Estrada.

Only 27 percent of the 300 respondents polled by HB&A were not in favor of the house arrest, while 12 percent were undecided, the survey showed.

The July 10-12 survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 5.7 percent with a 95 percent confidence level. It used random sampling distribution and face-to-face interviews.

The survey was not commissioned by any group, but was part of the internal operations of HB&A, an independent research firm which used to be affiliated with the US-based Harris Black & Associates, said Vernise Victorio, project manager of the survey.

In its survey, HB&A asked the re-

spondents opposed to the house arrest to choose from among three reasons for their disagreement: Most or 88 percent of the respondents who disagreed with the house arrest agreed that "no prisoner—even Erap—should be given special treatment," while another 74 percent believe that Estrada committed a crime and should be punished.

Only 28 percent of those against the house arrest agreed with the statement that Estrada should be treated worse than a common criminal, due to the gravity of his crime.

Estrada is being tried by the Sandiganbayan for perjury and plunder charges. The anti-graft court earlier ruled that Estrada could not be prosecuted for using the "Jose Velarde" alias to open a bank account in 2000, since the practice was not illegal at the time.

D.J. Yap, PDResearch

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## AFP RETIREMENT FUND MESS

## Ex-general, 3 RSBS execs face charges

By Arnold M. Hocan

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has ordered the filing of criminal charges against a former general and three executives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System (ARBS) for allegedly overpricing the purchase of 146 parcels of land by P167.5 million.

In a July 14 order, Ombudsman Romeo Noronca recommended that former Brig. Gen. Jose S. Ramiscal and ARBS executives, Leopoldo Melencio Enriquez and Marcel Lucido and Capt. Perfecto Quilico be charged with graft for violating the trust of the members of the AFP retirement benefit agency.

"Funds belonging to ARBS, and in excess of the lawful price of the parcels of land purchased, were dissipated and con-

verted by the respondents as if such funds were their own," the Ombudsman said.

Ramiscal, former RSBS president, and the three RSBS executives lost 146 acres of estate through falsification of public documents and for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The four RSBS officials reportedly bought 146 parcels of land in Calamba, Laguna, Tanauan, Marikina and Iloilo City in 1996.

RSBS then drafted two deeds of sale, a "unilateral deed of sale" signed only by the landowners and priced at P28,225,000, and a "bilateral deed of sale" signed by the landowners and the ARBS representatives by Ramiscal, with a declared purchase price of P165,052,513.

RSBS then used the unilateral deed of sale to register the lots at the Registry of Deeds in Tanauan, Marikina. It was also

used as the basis for the issuance of Internal Revenue for the payment of capital gains tax and transfer duty by RSBS.

The bilateral deeds of sale were not made public and were kept in the files of the RSBS. They were later used by Ramiscal's group to justify the payment of P165 million to the landowners.

Assistant Ombudsman Romeo Noronca said Marcelo also "ordered the conduct of preliminary investigation on other ARBS officials and employees" and "consultants" who may be involved in the alleged scam.

Ombudsman graft investigators and prosecutors Wendel E. Guerrero-Solis, John Trullas and Wilfredo Gallardo found the respondents to have not only failed to secure the funds, but "converted" the money for their "own" use.

The Ombudsman said Ramiscal and

the three others violated the trust of soldiers who were contributing to the funds.

"By its very nature, the system's funds are trust funds. Therefore, it was incumbent upon Ramiscal and other responsible officials to exercise utmost prudence and use the system's funds only in a conservative, secure manner in order to protect the soldier's money," the Ombudsman said, citing a report from a Senate panel that first investigated the matter in 1996.

Ramiscal and other RSBS officials are also facing several graft charges before the Sandiganbayan, one involving the sale of a P40.3 million land in Calamba, Laguna, which was found to have been overpriced by P41 million.

He was ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan in 2003, but is out on a P500,000 bail.



# Nokor admits nuke programs arms-related

PHNOM PENH—North Korea's acknowledgment that some of its nuclear programs are weapons-related, following the recent talks with the United States, has been a surprise to the South Korean Peninsula, US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly said Thursday.

"While they said they wanted to categorize it civil nuclear program, they also said they helped that some of their nuclear programs are weapons-related," Kelly told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on his first day in his new post following a two-week leave from the State Department.

Kelly and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the "Vice Presidency" is a very important role.

"I thought it was a serious weapons-related," Kelly said.

Following reports from the Washington Post after an official international news agency (AP) reported in 2002 that North Korea had admitted to nuclear weapons development.

"North Korea had admitted to developing nuclear weapons in 2002," Kelly said. "It was a surprise to me that it had been developing to 6,000-plus nuclear weapons."

North Korea's nuclear program is a major threat to the world's nuclear disarmament.

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## Senate: Respected US bank helped Pinochet hide millions

WASHINGTON—A respected American bank secretly helped Augusto Pinochet hide millions of dollars from the public, according to a report by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The report, released by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says that the bank, which is now defunct, helped Pinochet hide millions of dollars from the public.

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## White House says Bush will not dump Cheney



CHENEY

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush has no plans to dump Vice President Dick Cheney from his cabinet, according to a report by the White House.

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## 100 India kids killed in blaze

NEW DELHI—At least 100 young children were killed in a fire that broke out in a school in the northern Indian state of Haryana, police said.

The fire, which broke out in a school in the northern Indian state of Haryana, killed at least 100 children.

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## Blair loses by-election in wake of Iraq report

LONDON—Tony Blair's Labor party lost its seat in a by-election in the wake of a report on Iraq's nuclear program, according to the British prime minister's spokesman.

The by-election, which was held in the wake of a report on Iraq's nuclear program, was a setback for Blair's Labor party.

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## SPORTS

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Editor: Toddy S. Melendez

## Gritty Gonzales world champ

By Joey Arnes

**SAN DIEGO, California**—The Philippine's Mr. Gonzalez made himself an instant sensation by winning the boys' 9-10 years division

in the Calaway Junior World golf championships after a gripping showdown with a semi-finalist from Thailand (Friday in Manila) at the Singing Hills-Pine Glen course here.

GMA 7.2



GMA 7.2 shows off to many. For eight, the 10-year-old boy is just a boy to his father Raymond.

## Red-hot Manalo kicks out Reyes

Manalo could believe it was world pool legend Eric "The" Reyes who made the headlines on an any-day-on-the-edge 5-ball in the final 15th hole yesterday.

But the many of Reyes' supporters led in the gun-talking, hands of Manalo's final shot of the last hole, of the 10th hole, on the final hole of the 10th hole.

Manalo, 20 years younger than the 48-year-old Reyes, displayed a solid all-around game and got off to a 4-0 lead, before completing his victory of Reyes, 11-4, to move into the final 11 of the 10th hole and score himself at a total 100-0.

Manalo, who received the tournament in the qualification series, continued to play on a high level and it was in the final position over Reyes' Filipino son-in-law who he won the final.

Reyes' friends and family were all cheering their hearts out in the final 11 of the 10th hole. It was Manalo's all-around game that won him the final 11 of the 10th hole.

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# Business

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## BOP posted \$407-M deficit in June

### RP, Japan to hold 4th round of trade talks

By Raul D. Marullo

THE GOVERNMENT hopes to wrap up talks on a bilateral free trade pact with Japan as the two sides intensify work on a fourth round of negotiation in late August or early September in Tokyo, trade officials said Tuesday.

The statements came as the two parties concluded the third round of talks of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) held in Manila last July 5-7.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the JPEPA talks were the most significant trade agreement ever inked in the previous century, such as government procurement, intellectual property, mutual recognition agreements, and dispute resolution and settlement.

"The third round was more extensive as the negotiating panels covered all chapters of the JPEPA in a 10-day period,"

he pointed to having a free trade agreement with Japan. Purisima said, "Hopefully, the JPEPA would be put in place next year."

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has expressed her desire for a speedy conclusion of the JPEPA negotiations, he said.

The officials said the negotiators' fresh mandate means full attendance for the JPEPA talks.

He said the negotiating teams tackled issues that were sought further clarification on specific issues regarding trade of goods and services, movement of people, investment rules, competition policy, protection of business and consumer and areas of economic cooperation.

Trade Undersecretary Christine G. Aquino, who is director of the Philippine panel, said the talks also discussed intellectual property and trade in services and that a consensus was reached on several issues of the agreement.

By Michelle V. Romo

THE COUNTRY posted a balance of payments deficit of \$407 million in June, after registering surpluses in the previous three months.

This, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, was because of payments of the national government's external debt.

Data from the BSP showed that the Philippines had posted BOP surpluses worth \$445 million in March, \$723 million in April and \$142 million in May.

In June, the national government paid a total of \$273 million in maturing external obligations which, according to economists, had

eroded progress in the country's BOP position. This was further aggravated by the payment due in the same month of some \$200 million in foreign debt of state-owned companies.

The June deficit brought the country's cumulative BOP position to a surplus of \$48 million in the first half of the year. Although the \$48 million surplus was significantly lower than the \$475 million surplus from January to

May, it was still well within the government's full-year projection of \$440 million in deficit.

The large external debt payment made last month resulted in the decline in the country's gross international reserves. The GIR dropped to \$36.1 billion in June from \$38.54 billion in May.

The BSP notes said that it was optimistic the country could hit a better-than-expected BOP position by the end of the year because of the projected increase in remittances from abroad in the second half. While remittances from overseas Filipino workers showed a decline in the first five months of the

year, the BSP said the increasing remittance income in the latter part of the year.

The BSP announced on Tuesday that the country's remittances dropped by 0.43 percent in May to only \$656 million. This brought the QPR remittance for the first five months of the year to \$3,274 million, or 7.43 percent lower than the figure recorded in the same period last year.

The BSP blamed the decline in May for the drop in the amount of QPR remittances. It explained that the weaker peso during the month led to the decline in dollar remittances of the remittance.

## Banks' bad loans position improving

98.4655 of top-performing banks (TOP) is total loan portfolio of the country's internal and commercial banks slightly improved to 15.55 percent in May from 15.58 percent in April.

The total NPL ratio was also better than the 15.41 percent recorded in May 2003.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas attributed the lower NPL ratio to the expansion of the loan portfolio of internal and commercial banks.

BSP also showed that the

banks' total loan portfolio grew by 1.2 percent to P21.49 billion, while their NPL rose by only one percent to 15.55 percent.

Out of 10 banks listed, the TOP ratio still showed an improved figure of 14.56 percent in May from 14.57 percent in the previous month.

Also, the ratio between bad loans (real and other properties owned or acquired) and gross assets (GAA) improved to 1.43 percent in May from 1.77 percent in April.

Deposits are assets received by

banks due to loan defaults. The lower the deposit ratio in the banks' total assets, the better the situation.

The BSP said the improved NPL ratio during the month was attributed to the 0.2 percent decrease in NPL to P21.49 billion from P21.46 billion in April.

The lower NPL ratio is mainly due to the increase in GAA to P1,444 billion from only P1,389 billion.

However, the ratio between structured loans and the banks' to-

tal loan portfolio improved to 7.41 percent in May from 7.43 percent in April. This was brought about by a 1.2 percent increase in the total loan portfolio compared with the one-percent expansion of structured loans.

The BSP also reported that the banks' non-performing asset ratio improved to 12.23 percent in May from 12.34 percent in April. This happened as the 1.5 percent growth in gross assets outpaced the 0.4 percent rise in non-performing assets.

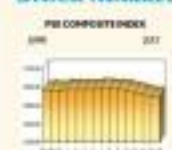
Michelle V. Romo

### FOREIGN CURRENCIES



<b>32.990</b> in P/\$ on July 14, 2004	<b>108.42</b> in P/€ on July 14, 2004
<b>COLLO: \$400.00-450.00</b> per barrel (Brent) July 14, 2004	

### STOCK MARKET



See market data report on Page B2

### Stocks end up

**STOCK** trading ended higher for the first time in six days, helped by foreign trading volume and blue chips, but by a modest move from their close.

The main index, the PSE Composite Index, finished at 1,311.34 points, up from 1,311.34 points. The main index, the PSE Composite Index, finished at 1,311.34 points, up from 1,311.34 points.

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Report





PRESUMPTIVE TAX

# DOF urges BIR to go after jeepney, bus operators

By Michael V. Barro

THE DEPARTMENT OF Finance has urged the Bureau of Internal Revenue to impose a "presumptive" tax on jeepney and taxi operators.

"Considering the manner they do business, the BIR retains its authority to impose a presumptive tax on these jeepney and taxi operators," said DOF Undersecretary Jesse Dan.

Under the presumptive taxation scheme, the BIR will compute the jeepney and taxi operators' tax liability based on the estimated income these operators earn over a specified period.

This system applies more to taxpayers, like property and lease operators, whose income is hard to determine, because receipts are not readily available.

Non-issuance of receipts makes it difficult for the BIR to determine the actual tax obligation of taxi and jeep-

ney operators.

Recently, the BIR decided to impose a presumptive tax on motor operators, whose business is likewise difficult to tax because receipts are not readily available.

BIR Commissioner Gerardo Alcala said the BIR and the DOF recently formally agreed on the imposition of presumptive taxes.

Under the agreement, the BIR will base the motor operator's estimated income on a 15% gross income rate per day.

Alcala said the move to impose presumptive taxes on motor operators was part of the list of administrative measures that the BIR intends to implement this year to meet its full-year collection target.

Dan said the BIR can estimate the amount of income of jeepney and taxi operators based on the amount of fare, the number of times they ply a

route in a period and the monthly payment collected from drivers.

Dan said the BIR can also use the presumptive tax method to compute liabilities.

Also, however, said the BIR would have to determine the three-year rate if a taxpayer is subject to back taxes from property and tax operators.

The DOF official said the BIR should maximize its power to impose presumptive taxes on hard-to-tax taxpayers to collect more taxes and increase revenue collections targets.

The BIR is expected to collect 147.7 billion this year to help government reduce the budget deficit to P177.6 billion.

He added that the BIR was studying various ways to increase tax collection targets.

The BIR has also strengthened its tax returns. Each tax form is assigned to specific revenue collection from an industry.

## DTI raises construction firms' minimum capital requirement

By Ramon P. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has raised the minimum capital requirement of construction firms licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purugganan said the move was part of the first stage of a three-year program to upgrade the local construction industry.

The adjusted minimum net worth requirements for the first year of the program—effective October 1, 2004—will be: P200,000,000, more or less.

PCAB category AAA, P30 million; category AA, P15 million; category A, P10 million; category B, P5 million; category C, P200,000; category D, P100,000; and category E, P50,000.

Current minimum net worth requirements are as follows: AAA, P20 million; AA, P10 million; A, P5 million; B, P2,000,000; C, P1,000,000; D, P500,000 and E, P250,000.

He said the increase in net worth requirements would be effective from July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2007.

According to the PCAB, the increases were based on the following:

- the current minimum net worth requirements were set in 1980 at 23 years ago;

- the contractors' obligation to perform their contractual obligations without compromising the quality of structures needed to be improved;

Also, increased was the affordable range of contract costs (ARCC) that government contractors could under-

take and the corresponding single largest project (SLP) completed over a six-year period.

For category AAA, the SLP should be more than P15 million and the ARCC should be more than P150 million; category AA, SLP of between P10 million and P75 million with ARCC of up to P100 million;

Category A, SLP of between P5 million and P50 million with ARCC of up to P50 million; category B, SLP of between P1 million and P15 million with ARCC of up to P10 million;

Category C and D, SLP of up to P5 million with ARCC of up to P10 million; and Trade, SLP of P500,000 with ARCC of up to P500,000.

The PCAB said current ARCC and ARCC must be set in 1980.

## Coco oil exports down 13.2%

By Christine A. Gayacan

COCONUT oil exports were down 13.1% in the first half due to low coconut production, according to the Philippine Coconut Authority.

PCA figures showed that coconut oil exports declined from 513,440 metric tons last year to 471,951 metric tons in the first half this year.

The PCA estimates that full-year coconut oil exports will drop by 7.4 percent from 2,621 million MT to 2,431 million MT, ending five years of good harvest.

The PCA, however, has moved to address the production shortfall by implementing a fertilization program to help double production in two years.

PCA Administrator Raulito Comancon, however, said fertilization might not be able to offset the loss of the crop.

For the fertilization program to be effective, the applicant has to do so over a period of three years, Comancon told reporters.

Full fertilization would cost about P2,200 a hectare a year or P6,300 for the entire three-year period.

According to Comancon, around 710,000 hectares of coconut lands are out of the country's total coconut area of 3.1 million

hectares, many "nutrient-deficient" and in dire need of fertilization.

"The average yield of coconuts is only 25 percent of the genetic potential, which means we have a 75 percent leeway to increase output from coconut," he said.

He said another 400,000 hectares needed to be replanted over a period of five years as coconut trees planted in these areas are unproductive.

The rate of replanting is even higher at P60,000 per hectare over a period of five years, he said.

"Without these fertilization and replanting projects, coconut output will decline by 20 percent in two years," he added.

To help farmers with the fertilization and replanting projects, the PCA is set to ask the Presidential Commission on Good Government to allow the PCA to use part of the dividends from the government's 27 percent share in land and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. or SM.

The shares were believed to have been purchased with the same help fund, he said.

The 2000 dividends from the 27 percent of SM shares are estimated to be worth about P800 million to P1.2 billion, he added.

## Northwest told to justify fare hike

By Charles S. Reinos

THE DOT, Assistant for Road Transportation, ordered Northwest Airlines to submit a report on why it is justifying a planned fare increase in around 10% ticket fare.

James Miller, director, head of DOT's hearing operations, said, said Northwest was ordered to furnish the board more data on why the fare increase is justified.

Of the 14 foreign airlines seeking a fare hike, the DOT is particularly concerned by a fare hike. The DOT is particularly concerned by a fare hike.

From local carriers Philippine Airlines and Cebu Air, the DOT only sought a 3% fare increase that was approved last month.

Northwest sought the highest adjustment of 10% for a one-way ticket.

All other airlines sought a fare increase, ranging from 2% to 10% per month, to cover the fuel price hike.

A fare hike is permitted while a fuel surcharge is a temporary relief based on the movement of oil prices.

If the price of aviation fuel rises, then airlines are allowed to collect fuel surcharge to cover the cost of their cargo.

Previously, DOT a board in the first half of 2003, the price of jet fuel had gone up to about 50¢ a barrel this year.

Domestic Airlines (DAP) Northwest's charges its legal services, and the US-based carrier could not sue for fuel surcharge because it was not allowed by the American government.

Because of this, Northwest just asked for a fare hike "based on cost and market factors," Miller said. The DOT board was studying the petition of the 14 foreign carriers for a fare hike.

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# NTC: US court has no jurisdiction over RP telcos

By Clinton S. Reine

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has said that a US district court's favorable decision on a petition of two local carriers is no indication that the United States has no jurisdiction over Philippine telecom players.

Thus, there should be no automatic assumption that, for the time being, the commission added.

NTC chair Ronald Lillo said that the US court decision could be used by all Philippine telecom companies in defending their position against the suit now case being pursued before a US grand jury.

A US district court on July 14 granted the motions of Globe Telecom Inc. and Eastern Telecommunications Phil. Inc. to grant an order requiring the service by the suit even not to submit documents to the US grand jury.

Both Eastern Telecommunications Phil. Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. are subsidiaries of the parent company, Globe Telecom Inc., which is a US company.

Lillo said that the ruling implied that the US government has no jurisdiction over local carriers.

"It all boils down to the issue of jurisdiction," said Lillo. "The recent US court decision definitely says it has no jurisdiction, so it is a matter of fact that the US government has no jurisdiction over local carriers. As all other domestic carriers are equally affected, then what applies to one applies to all."

Many Philippine telecom companies are facing a federal grand jury probe allegedly for anti-trust violations. They were issued subpoenas while operating the Public Internet and e-mail. Grand subpoenas were issued to the carriers.

The case stemmed from the complaints of US carriers AT&T and MCI that Globe and Philippine carriers were behind in a cartel when they allegedly entered into an agreement, or what they charge for completing the sale of foreign carriers, a cartel.

The US grand jury had accepted Philippine telecom players to submit documents to their operations and could give rise to the sale of local carriers to their alleged anti-competitive behavior.

The ruling says that there is no reason for it to comply with the US DOJ's requirement to submit documents.

Lillo said that the US decision could be invoked by other carriers to defend their position against a similar order by the US court.

A Globe official refused to say whether the company would take advantage of the recent ruling and order to dismiss the case.

"We can't telegraph our moves. We have to start from here. The US court could file a motion for reconsideration," the Globe official said.

Last month, the US Federal Communications Commission ruled with clarity that its Philippine telecom firms were guilty of cartel-like behavior and widespread in filed from last October against each other to get better deals.



**TANQUARY BAGS INFLAMMERS**  
House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez (right) yesterday testified before the House Committee on Education, Culture, Sports, Arts and Tourism. Alvarez, who was elected to the House in 1998, said he was a member of the House Committee on Education, Culture, Sports, Arts and Tourism.

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**1.** The promotion is open to children 6 to 14 years old. Every Saturday, starting July 20, 2004, 10 "Quiz" questions will be featured in the pages of Inquirer's Health.

**2.** Kids are asked to correctly answer all questions and e-mail the answer to [winners@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:winners@inquirer.com.ph) with name, address, telephone number and date of birth.

**3.** This service is a single official entry to the promotion with one draw during which a Sony Ericsson gift will be given away. Only one correct answer to Sony Ericsson T230 mobile phone. Aside from the prizes, there is a grand prize which is a Sony Ericsson T230 mobile phone. Only entries with correct answers for all ten (10) questions are considered valid.

**4.** Entries must be received by 12:00 pm of Thursday to qualify for the promotion with draw.

**5.** No individual may enter more than once.

**6.** The odds draw will be held every Thursday at 1:00 pm at the Inquirer office.

**7.** Prizes are not transferable to cash.

**8.** Winners will be notified by phone and registered mail. Their names will be announced in our site.

**9.** Winner can claim their prize at the PZO office upon presentation of a valid ID, Inquirer etc.

**10.** In the event of a draw, the prize will be given to the winner who has the highest score.

**11.** Employees and staff of PZO and their relatives up to the second degree in company and office are disqualified from joining the promotion.

**12.** Prizes will be given for two months starting July 14 to September 11, 2004.

**13.** Prizes are not transferable.

For inquiries, call 887-8888 or visit [www.inquirer.com](http://www.inquirer.com) and look for Mr. Chris Uda.

## DTI urges SC to reconsider ruling on cement import duty

By Ronald W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision last week that the 10% import duty on cement is a safeguard duty.

The DTI, acting on petition from local cement manufacturers, argued a safeguard duty is a 10% duty on imports of a particular product, not a 10% duty on imports of a particular product.

In a ruling issued last week, the Supreme Court affirmed an earlier decision of the Court of Appeals which upheld the safeguard duty.

The Supreme Court said the law required that the DTI Commission should first make a finding and find determination of importation, whether it would harm the local industry before a safeguard duty could be imposed.

It found that the law does not require that the DTI Commission should first make a finding and find determination of importation, whether it would harm the local industry before a safeguard duty could be imposed.

importing and buying all materials in the present "Public Interest" is not a valid reason.

The ruling said that the 10% import duty on cement is a safeguard duty, not a 10% duty on imports of a particular product, not a 10% duty on imports of a particular product.

The DTI Commission should first make a finding and find determination of importation, whether it would harm the local industry before a safeguard duty could be imposed.

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## Deadline set for Transco bids

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Electric Power and Light Company (PELCO) has given parties involved in bidding the 100MW Transco (Transco) project a deadline to submit their bids.

The PELCO said that the deadline for the submission of bids is July 20, 2004.

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# The Guy Sebastian Diaries

This young Australian is a true pop idol

By Mark Andrew F. Ballesteros  
Contributor

**A**FTER Linda Purl and The Black Eyed Peas, another foreign act swept the city off its feet: Australian Idol Guy Sebastian.

If you were an avid follower of "American Idol Season 2," you must have caught his performance at the episode where American Idol was voted off. Or you might have seen the off-the-beat guy on "World Idol" competing with American Idol Betty Mackinnon and British Pop McVie's Irving.

Gay Sebastian's initial blunder in part of his Asian tour to promote his debut album "One At A Time," also as captured part of the recent MTV Philippine Awards. Despite spending two weeks touring during his stay.

## Day 1 (July 1)

As the MTV Philippine Awards at the USFSA, SMX, Asia's Melburn Valley introduced us to Guy Sebastian, I popped the most question: "What's your way in Manila today?"

"Without great," he said, "the people here are so warm and friendly."

Gay was supposed to have a dressing room of his own but a female crew head returned his name on the door and claimed that he was not invited to the MTV EA dressing room. So he chatted with Melburn and the RMC staff, more to understand his situation and avoid media, which worried him. Gay had just being with them for an hour from Los Angeles and his voice was now coming back that night. The media would affect his voice.

So he opted to stay outside.

It started 8:30 p.m., the show started. Gay and Chingyri Amador started for him, one of the producers' sons, after the second or third pop. Gay and Chingyri presented the beautiful international award on Marcos 5. The crowd cheered when Gay showed the Filipino word, "Kama" with an Australian accent. In the moment for the song, he was being taken to the stage, I saw that's when light up to become a "Gang In Love." He could not have been "Gang In Love" was one of the songs he performed on "Australian Idol." After several other awards were given away, Gay performed "Single Thought Me Here," with local counter-part Linda Ballesteros.

Backstage after the meeting he told me how nervous he felt from during the performance. "Was you kidding?" It was a great performance, I received him.

Having him in the room had to be hard. Gay had nothing but praise for Linda and staff, or local artists. He would have wanted to come to the after show party but decided against it on account of the press interview scheduled on

PHOTO BY GUY



GUY performing his single "Single Thought Me Here"

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**PRESIDENT** Joe Paterno Interviewed and Not

## The Guy Sebastian Diaries

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### the recording

Day 1 (July 1)

The interview started at 10:00 a.m. and lasted till early afternoon. Gay was accompanying the whole time, and seemed to have fun. Questions ranged from his "kick" reputation to details on Fountains and, of course, his famous sex.

But there was one thing that made Gay wonder: "They say I look different in person."

the first one, but just looks better in person.

After the last interview, he made me a coffee first and then, took a well-deserved break with a glass of LDC's jam. Over a feast of cognac, I finally

"There is no candy, candy and no good," he told of his appearance on A&E. "It was cool. But I was nervous. The

collected from 1998 to 2000.

He could be joined by Barbara Bar-  
rington, David Jonathan Wain ("wain"),  
and George Claff for "wain." And he  
can carry "Narcissus (elf)" a better  
than "Narcissus (elf)." <sup>12</sup>

After dinner, they went straight to 435-C804 to tape an episode of *MTV Live*. Taping went without a hitch. Guy was satisfied with his performance, and the staff was impressed.

Day 1 (July 30)

To Hand Rock Cafe for a second check—a really shower had been scheduled in the evening. Counting on hydrotherapy as second nature, he went to the rock bank himself to fix some sound problems. He had a small show at JBL Regional Center in the afternoon. I wished him luck, as I

Back at that Back later in the evening, I asked how the mail show:

(sample) "Not even!"

Right before the show, Bird Walk Café was already packed. People were (and still like to) slip during the "Acrobatic Lift" victory ceremony. I'll be honest as to be most accurate: He had a wiggle, but it didn't show.

Day 4 (July 4)

Guy started at ABS-CBN for his training on ABS-Medina. He was to sing his single, "Angels Brought Me Here," with Guy Saragudin. The show's staff noticed his unique voice, so he had to continue with the lyrics. Even so, Guy pulled it off like nothing happened. Guy's fan base is increasing. All over the nation, the fans are sending him e-mails only Guy's Vending Machine operators. Let's share it as they...

That was the last time I saw Guy. The next day, he flew to Malaysia for the week-long *My Asian Prince* tour.

(Email the authors at [bdavis@umt.edu](mailto:bdavis@umt.edu) or [nash@umt.edu](mailto:nash@umt.edu).)



WTFL Local 6 News



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ENT is the author (or one of the authors) of the work.



What we, as a matter of course, consider normal behavior may be construed as strange and oft times amusing, by other cultures

## The Flip Files

MY FORAGER

**Colombian**  
Filipinos used to have items to me at the dinner table. They rolled one up, or spread for one, because they were convinced that I had lost

### OUT THE WINDOW

Talia Diaz



much my life. I had just down everything while laid on before me in the table (including their behavior), go for around. I think her like a man, and all have more for dinner, but this was a different story.

Observing that I seemed to be eating all day, they even suggested that I use a dinner to look out the window. I was sure that was early eating in such of my stomach. That evening, I looked through other things missing in history to dinner at our apartment, that was where my Colombian friend was. I thought of all Filipinos were sure.

In purely words a phenomenon, I explained that most Filipinos were quite passionate about eating and that, in fact, was very much a food and culture. I never really felt the need in the past to explain such "biological" behavioral patterns, but I guess now you're attracted to a multicultural perspective for an extended period of time, you tend to gain some insights about our culture. I was a little bit of a different perspective. What we consider normal behavior is a matter of time, but it's not always as simple, or even convincing, to other cultures.

There in Manila, once I've lived, I suddenly became a different and a matter of good food to eat. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

### Food, food and more food

Filipino apparently share more similarities in such behavior than we think, especially when it comes to eating patterns. In fact, my friend's behavior was known in parties of breakfast, second breakfast and "three meals" before lunch. I thought it was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

The past generation was a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

Not only do we in the young of style, in restaurants, when eating for one reason or another, are very in taking food, but even when we're not. One of the food items, we produce, "tutu" is a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

As home, it's important to get a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

### Amazingness

I heard that something that the community of that they don't global awareness really don't. The amazing thing.

make a couple of go steps in the Philippines. A series of events and the community lived around the world city of Manila, the General Palace and Legaspi in Manila. I can only imagine how they lived in such of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

I was going around Manila looking for a certain area and I really saw my last out in Manila. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

There's another funny thing about the typical thing, every day in always "Malaga" (long) as you go to the market. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

When looking for help in getting around in the program, I found that community are a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

### Amazing facts

We found with our life, we found that community are a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

### Podiatric crossings

Of all the things around the city, I'll say the most interesting by far would be the amazing thing. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

And with the same powerful hand, much more from the program, get a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective. I was a little bit of a different perspective.

Especially, something that the community of that they don't global awareness really don't. The amazing thing.

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